

REMARKS

Initially, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the courtesies that were extended during the recent in person interview held on April 4, 2006. The amendments made by this paper are consistent with the proposals discussed during the interview.

The non-final Office Action, mailed February 21, 2006, considered and rejected claims 1-8, 15, 17-20 and 35-40. Claims 1-8, 15, 17-20 and 35-40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moore (U.S. Patent No. 6,847,938) in view of Miloslavsky et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,981,020).¹

By this paper, claims 1, 2, 6, 19, 35, 36 and 39 have been amended, claims 41 and 42 have been added, and no claims have been cancelled.² Accordingly, following this paper, claims 1-8, 15, 17-20 and 35-42 remain pending, of which claim 1 is the only independent claim at issue.

As discussed during the interview, the present invention is directed to embodiments for sending multiple, coordinated messages to a consumer from multiple entities that each participate in the same transaction with the user. Claim 1, for instance, recites a method in which a user who enters into a transaction involving multiple entities receives coordinated notifications from the multiple entities to inform the user of the status of the transaction. To coordinate the messages, a notification interface is provided that includes a standardized API for each of the multiple entities to send notifications to the consumer, and such that each entity that generates a notification corresponding to the transaction can communicate with the notification interface to send notifications to the user in a coordinated manner. To coordinate the messages, the notification interface receives notifications from the multiple entities and the notifications include an identifier that enables identification of the user and further includes data identifying the particular transaction involved. Using the identifier, the user is identified and the notification interface sends the notifications to a router which then determines which of multiple delivery methods to use by consulting preferences set by the user regarding those delivery methods.

¹ Although the prior art status of the cited art is not being challenged at this time, Applicants reserve the right to challenge the prior art status of the cited art at any appropriate time, should it arise. Accordingly, any arguments and amendments made herein should not be construed as acquiescing to any prior art status of the cited art.

² Support for the claim amendments and new claim can be found throughout Applicants' specification, including at least the disclosure found in paragraphs 36, 42, 49-55 and 57-60 of the originally filed application.

As further noted during the interview, Moore is generally directed to an embodiment for facilitating the exchange of goods in barter transactions over the Internet. (Col. 4, ll. 10-21). In particular, the system includes a website and a user logs in to the website and lists the item to be traded as well as criteria for the goods desired. (Col. 4, ll. 24-32). The system then searches a database of other users to determine one or more other listings which match the criteria set by the user. (Col. 7, ll. 18-24). Once a match has been located, both parties involved can be notified by display of the information on the website or by sending an email message to the users. (Col. 9, ln. 64 to Col. 10, ln. 1). The information includes the other's name and address and optionally includes telephone numbers and user identification to allow the parties to finalize their exchange. (Col. 10, ll. 5-13).

Moore fails, however, to disclose or suggest any method in which a notification interface includes an API, and further fails to disclose where each of multiple entities send notifications to a user through an API notification interface. Instead, Moore discloses notifications sent by a single server to users, but fails to disclose where multiple entities send multiple notifications to a user through the same notification interface such that the messages are delivered to the user in a coordinated manner.

Moore also fails to disclose or suggest where a notification interface sends the multiple notifications to a router which then determines the delivery method of the notification (from among a plurality of available delivery methods specified by the user), by consulting the user's preferences. In fact, Moore merely teaches that a single notification about a potential transaction is displayed or emailed to the user, but it fails to teach where user preferences are consulted to determine which of a plurality of user-specified methods should be used.

Miloslavsky also fails to disclose or suggest any method in which a user is provided notifications from multiple entities in a coordinated manner and a delivery method that is determined by consulting preferences set by the user who receives the notifications. For example, Miloslavsky generally describes a system for processing electronic mail in a call center environment where the electronic mail is not sent to any specific person. (Abstract, Col. 2, ll. 20-32). When an email is sent to the call center, the system selects an agent and routes the message to the agent by extracting information from the message and matching the extracted content with the skill sets of the available agents. (Col. 2, ll. 29-32). In other words, Miloslavsky teaches that a message is routed to a particular recipient based on message content,

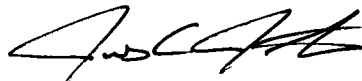
and fails to teach or suggest that a message is routed *based on user preferences*. In addition, all deliveries are made by email, and a *delivery method* is not taught or suggested to be selected from among a plurality of *delivery methods* specified by preferences of the recipient, as claimed in combination with the other recited elements.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the other rejections to the claims are now moot and do not, therefore, need to be addressed individually at this time. It will be appreciated, however, that this should not be construed as Applicants acquiescing to any of the purported teachings or assertions made in the last action regarding the cited art or the pending application, including any official notice. Instead, Applicants reserve the right to challenge any of the purported teachings or assertions made in the last action, including any official notice, at any appropriate time in the future, should it arise.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are neither anticipated by nor made obvious by the art of record. In the event that the Examiner finds and remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that may be clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Dated this 19 day of May, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,



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